

GIRL DANCER SEIZES TAXI AT GUN POINT

Also Takes Driver's \$11 in Bronx Holdup; Her Male Companion Looks On.

COMMODORE MAN SHOT

Lunch Room Cashier Refused to Open Register; Assaultant Flees in Subway.

7 OTHER HOLDUPS IN DAY

Blackjacking and Stabbing Resorted To—Nine Loiterers Arrested in Village.

Arnold Tramer, of 64 West 124th street, a taxicab chauffeur, entered the Manhattan police station last night and told detectives that he had just been held up and robbed of his cash and \$11 in cash by a young woman who pointed a revolver at him and threatened to kill him if he made any noise.

"She was a remarkably pretty young woman, he said, and she had a man with her, but he took no part in the robbery save to stand by with a gun and watch with an approving type the work of his companion.

Tramer said that his cab was hailed on the Williams avenue bridge in the Bronx by the man and the woman. They got in, he said, and told him to drive to Walton avenue and 164th street. The Bronx, which is a lonely and comparatively deserted section. He went there and the man and woman got out of the cab. Tramer said when he turned to look at the water to see the fare he heard the woman tell him to hold up his hands.

"I thought she was joking," he said. "But soon found out she wasn't when I saw she had a gun. I saw the man had a gun also, so I raised my hands and the woman went through my pockets, taking \$11 from me. Then she told me to beat it, and beat it quick."

"Could you describe her?" a detective asked.

"Sure," said Tramer. "She was a beauty."

"The woman and her companion went away in the taxicab."

Eight Other Holdups.

The eight hours yesterday produced a series of eight holdups, in one of which a man was shot because he refused to surrender the contents of a restaurant cash register. Two men were blackjacked, one stabbed, two were held up but not robbed because the robbers were frightened and two were robbed without suffering anything more than the loss of money.

Detectives entered the hours near dawn in Greenwich Village by searching streets and alleys for prowlers. Nine were arrested and held for this morning lineup at Headquarters.

William Roettger, 51, of 621 Ninth avenue, cashier in the Commodore Luncheon at 145 East Forty-second street, had congratulated himself on the probability of being held up in that store because of its location in the heart of the hotel district. He saw a young customer early yesterday, served with coffee and salad, and was about to find the muzzle of a pistol sticking through the opening in his case.

"Give me all the money you got today," the gun carrier demanded. Roettger refused and was about to call the waiter when the robber fired at him. The bullet entered Roettger's abdomen.

Escapes in Subway.

While Roettger was dragging himself along the floor to the door and the waiter was looking for a club the robber ran down a subway entrance 100 feet away and disappeared. Detectives and patrolmen searched for him in the maze of underground passages. For more than an hour every entrance and exit of the vicinity was guarded, but the robber was not seen. The Lexington avenue line was searched, but Roettger's assailant was not found. Roettger was taken to Bellevue Hospital. It was said last night that his condition was still critical.

Bandits waylaid Thomas Donohue, 37, a nurse at Presbyterian Hospital, as he descended the stairs from the second avenue "L" station at the southwest corner of Twenty-third street. Witnesses saw Donohue attacked by two men, who beat him with blackjacks and then emptied his pockets, taking \$25.

Harry Green, 20, of 1816 Seventieth street, Brooklyn, was held without bail for examination Wednesday when he was arraigned in Yorkville Court yesterday on a charge of assaulting and robbing Harry Groves of 327 East Thirty-fifth street. Groves, a taxicab chauffeur, said Green and two other men hired his cab at Tenth avenue and Second street and had him take them to Avenue A and Nineteenth street. There he was robbed of \$47.

While returning home from a party early in the morning George Bauer, 22, of 616 West 168th street, was stabbed in the abdomen and left lying on the Broadway subway station at 125th street. The man was taken to Knickerbocker Hospital.

Held for Police Attack.

Four men alleged to have taken part in the attack on Patrolman Henry J. Seibel of the West Sixty-eighth street police station in Central Park Saturday night were held in \$5,000 bail each yesterday when arraigned in West Side Court. They described themselves as John MacDonald, 21, of 241 West Twenty-second street; John Kelly, 20, of 1215 First avenue; John Gramer, 21, of 1704 Third avenue; and David Goldberg, 29, of 395 Hewes street, Brooklyn. A fifth man, Newton Sutton, 24, of 1155 Third avenue, who was shot by Seibel, was in a serious condition last night in Roosevelt Hospital. Ten thousand dollars bail was demanded in West Side Court yesterday for the release of Fred Fredericks, 25, of 404 West Forty-eighth street, who was arrested charged with holding up Adolph Towser, chauffeur, of 1467 St. Mark's avenue, Brooklyn. Towser said he was robbed of \$15 at Eighth avenue and Forty-ninth street yesterday night. Edward Perlmutter of 307 East Seventy-seventh street, was beaten and robbed just before dawn in front of his home at 119 West Dunn, 24, of 322 East Twelfth street, and John Corman, 23, of 422 West Fortieth street, were looked up charged with the robbery.

DRUG ADDICTS IN U. S. MORE THAN MILLION; VICTIMS INCREASING

New York City's Total Alone 100,000—Smugglers Get More Active as Narcotic Agents Become Stricter—Lawlessness Appears to Grow With Greater Use of Dopes.

This is the first of a series of articles THE NEW YORK HERALD will publish on drug addiction in the United States, its growth and the causes. This article deals with the general situation, estimates of the number of drug addicts and gives the views of various officials as to the question of whether drug addiction is increasing. The second article will appear to-morrow.

Within the last six months there have been reports from many sources, some of them official and almost unassailable, to the effect that drug addiction in this country is alarmingly on the increase. Coincidentally, the use and misuse of narcotics has figured prominently in news articles, notably in the Taylor murder case in Los Angeles, and raids made in New York and elsewhere have served to call the whole question of drug addiction again to the attention of the public.

With the purpose of ascertaining, as far as it can be learned, the true state of affairs with reference to the use of narcotics, THE NEW YORK HERALD has made inquiry in well informed sources, has looked up and compared governmental records, has obtained interesting data from its correspondents in all parts of the country and has interviewed doctors and others who, to a degree at least, have specialized in this subject. It purposes presenting the material, it has gathered in a series of articles, of which this is the first.

There has been a marked growth in drug addiction in this country. On this point practically all authorities agree. They do not agree either as to the extent or the causes, but they do say there are more drug addicts in the country to-day than there were a few years back. Statistics bear out the statements made. Wherever statistics are available they show an increase in the number of known addicts. It is important that the term "known addicts" be used and understood, for one of the most important aspects of the whole drug question is the fact that the use of drugs is truly a secret, personal habit, vice or affliction. For this reason there can be no true parallel drawn between the use of narcotic drugs and alcoholic dissipation prior to the days of prohibition.

Drug Addict Term Defined.

Dr. Ernest S. Bishop, in his book on the drug question, gives this definition:

"A narcotic drug addict is an individual in whose body the continued administration of opiate drugs has established a physical reaction, or condition, or mechanism, or process which manifests itself in the production of definite and constant symptoms and signs and peculiar and characteristic phenomena, appearing inevitably upon the deprivation or material lessening in amount of the narcotic drug, and capable of immediate and complete control only by further administration of the drug of the patient's addiction."

Dr. Bishop is quoted to this extent at the outset, so that the uninitiated may have a clear understanding of what drug addiction means. It should be said, too, that neither age, race, social position, nationality nor sex has the slightest bearing on the question of drug addiction and that it is not the case that addicts are unreliable, untruthful and impossible people, as some motion pictures and theatrical productions might be taken to indicate.

There are estimable, refined, cultured, respected, even prominent persons who are drug addicts, as practicing physicians well know. Your next door neighbor, your most intimate friend, may be a drug addict. He will not tell you if such is the case, and unless your suspicions are aroused you will probably never guess, at least as long as he continues to find means to supply his needs. The man who drank to excess usually advertised the fact, unwilling, perhaps, but convincingly nevertheless. Not so the drug addict.

Habit forming drugs are chiefly derivatives of opium. Cocaine, which has many victims, is not. There are and have been for years many cocaine "fiends." Their plight is similar to that of the victims of heroin, morphine and other derivatives of opium. There are many more cocaine addicts. Much that can be said about one class applies with equal strength to the other. But in opium lies the chief cause of drug addiction. If there were no opium and hence none of its derivatives there would be no narcotic drug question or problem worth discussing.

Background for Developments.

The statements so far made are elementary. They have been made time and again in news articles, by committees of Congress and the Legislatures, by physicians and by workers along sociological lines. They are repeated here for the benefit of the readers of THE NEW YORK HERALD so that there may be a clear understanding of the question under discussion. They form the background of the developments with which this series of articles deals.

There are certainly more than 1,000,000, and probably less than 5,000,000, drug addicts in the United States to-day. No figures exist, for the reason that a man or woman may be an addict for years and the fact be known only to the afflicted person, perhaps to his or her doctor and possibly to other persons. Estimates vary widely. Experience shows there is more drug addiction in the cities than in the rural districts; hence averages based on population are unreliable. The best guide offered with the assertion which seems borne out by all reports that there has been a recent increase, is a two-year-old and unconvincing report made by a special committee acting under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury. The following quotations are from that report: "T. D. Crothers in 1912 put the number of addicts in the United States at 1,000,000, or 1 per cent. of the population, of whom 50 per cent. were addicted to morphine. C. E. Terry made a survey in Jacksonville, Fla., in 1913 and found 887 addicts, or 1.31 per cent. of the population. L. P. Brown

CITY FUNDS WASTED, HILLMAN CLAIMED

Meyer Report Charges Extravagance and Financial Abuses.

DEBT LIMIT PASSED

Abolition of Sinking Fund Commission Is Urged in the Report.

\$100,000 BEHIND DAILY

Restoration of 'Pay as You Go' Policy Recommended to the Charter Revision Committee.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, New York, March 19.

Abolition of the Sinking Fund Commission, the restoration of the "pay-as-you-go" policy enacted in 1916 and the repeal of the general fund bond legislation were the outstanding recommendations in the final report of the Meyer committee to the Charter Revision Committee, made public to-day.

The committee also advocates as a result of its exhaustive inquiry into the affairs of the city government last year a change in the tax dates from May 1 and November 1 to January 1 and July 1, and has prepared a bill to be enacted into law for that purpose.

The Comptroller of the city of New York is to act as custodian of the funds heretofore placed in the sinking funds, and such receipts are to be applied to pay interest of the city debt, and the income derived from revenue producing properties is to be applied to the debt fund created for the acquisition of such properties.

The city administration is held responsible by the committee for having exceeded the constitutional debt limit in each year since 1918, and in addition, it is pointed out that the debt incurred by the city in 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 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